

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02
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P R 211637Z JUL 77
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TO AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2314
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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TAGS: PFOR, PO, SP
SUBJECT: FELIPE GONZALEZ ON NATO, THE EC, AND RELATIONS
WITH ISRAEL

REF: LISBON 5519 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: IN A JULY 19 TELEVISION INTERVIEW HERE,
PSOE SECRETARY GENERAL FELIPE GONZALEZ INSISTED THAT
NATO MEMBERSHIP FOR SPAIN WOULD ONLY PROPEL YUGOSLAVIA
INTO THE WARSAW PACT AFTER TITO'S DEATH (REFTEL).
GONZALEZ NOTED THAT SPAIN'S ENTRY INTO THE EC WOULD
CREATE SERIOUS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FOR THE COMMUNITY BUT
WOULD CLEARLY ENCOURAGE SPANISH DEMOCRACY. GONZALEZ
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FAVORED ESTABLISHING RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL WITHOUT
PREJUDICE TO EXISTING CORDIAL SPANISH RELATIONS WITH
THE ARAB WORLD. END SUMMARY.

1. SPAIN AND NATO: GONZALEZ DREW A DISTINCTION
BETWEEN EC MEMBERSHIP AND NATO PARTICIPATION. NATO
MEMBERSHIP, HE ARGUED, WOULD BE A STEP BACKWARD FOR

SPAIN, WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE QUESTION WOULD HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED TO PARLIAMENT, GONZALEZ STRESSED THAT THE PSOE WOULD FIGHT SPANISH ENTRY ON THE SAME GROUNDS THAT IT OPPOSED US MILITARY INSTALLATIONS AND NUCLEAR BASES IN SPAIN -- ALL JEOPARDIZED SPANISH SECURITY BY MAKING SPAIN A POTENTIAL TARGET FOR RETALIATION. GONZALEZ ADMITTED THE NEED FOR DEFENSE AGREEMENTS, BUT STRESSED THAT THE PSOE BELIEVES SPAIN CAN REMAIN NEUTRAL. HE NOTED THAT A GOS MOVE FOWARD WOULD PUSH YUGOSLAVIA TOWARD THE WARSAW PACT AFTER TITO'S DEATH.

2. SPAIN AND THE EC: THE SEC GEN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN THE EC WILL CAUSE SERIOUS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FOR THE COMMUNITY, BUT INSISTED THAT THE SPANISH ECONOMY MUST ADAPT TO SURVIVE AND SERVED NOTICE THAT THE PSOE WILL DEMAND ENTRY WITHIN FIVE YEARS. SPANISH PARTICIPATION IN THE EC CAN, FURTHERMORE, BE OF GREAT SUPPORT IN THE REBIRTH OF SPANISH DEMOCRACY.

3. RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AND THE ARAB WORLD:
GONZALEZ ARGUED THAT THE GOP MUST ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL, SINCE TO DO OTHERWISE WOULD BE TO CONCEDE THAT ALL INTERNATIONAL POLITICS WAS A CHOICE BETWEEN THE TWO CENTERS OF CONFLICTING INTEREST. THIS WOULD BE A SERIOUS POLITICAL BLUNDER. HE CITED SOVIET RECOGNITION OF BOTH ISRAEL AND THE ARAB STATES AS LENDING FURTHER UNCLASSIFIED

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WEIGHT TO A SPANISH DECISION TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. THE PSOE SEC GEN ARGUED THAT RELATIONS CAN AND WILL BE ESTABLISHED WITH TEL AVIV WITHOUT DESRUPTING THE GOS'S CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB CAPITALS.

4. A SOCIALIST DESTINY FOR THE IBERIAN PENINSULA:
GONZALEZ EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR THE SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS TO WORK TOGETHER. HE PREDICTED A PSOE WIN IN THE COMING SPANISH MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE SOCIALISTS REPRESENT A UNIFIED POLITICAL FORCE WHILE THE GOVERNING CDU IS AN AD HOC CONGLOMERATION OF DIVERSE IDEOLOGIES. THE CDU, HE SAID, REPRESENTS THAT INTERESTS OF THE "RIGHT" WHILE THE PSOE, WITH ITS BASE IN THE UNIONS AND UNIFIED BY SOCIALIST IDEOLOGY, REPRESENTS THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING CLASS.
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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